MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 FEBRUARY 1986

Iran-Iraq War

Regarding naval action, Iraqi statements and communiques broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio claimed that the Iraqi Navy destroyed another Iranian supply ship 20 February, sunk an enemy "early warning" vessel 21 February, and destroyed two "very large maritime targets" near Khark Island 23 February. The communiques also mentioned Iraqi air attacks against the Ganaveh oil pipeline intersection 23 February and against Khark Island and a "maritime target" the previous day. In contrast, IRNA announced that Iranian troops "totally smashed" another Iraqi counterattack early 24 February and military communiques cited by the agency claimed that Iraq lost some 1,500 men killed or wounded in other unsuccessful attacks over the weekend.

In other developments, Iran warned in a statement broadcast by Tehran radio that it can and will repay the Baghdad regime for the latter's "black deed" in shooting down an Iranian passenger aircraft, stressing that "the continuation of these crimes will endanger air security throughout the world." On the chemical weapons issue, the Iranian prime minister denied Iraqi claims that Iran has used such weapons, asserting that Iran has not yet deployed chemical weapons though it is capable of doing so, according to IRNA. The agency also reported on the acting Iranian foreign minister's 22 February talks in Damascus with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, citing the latter's statement that Iran has no designs on Iraqi territory and that "the main problem" is Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, not the Iraqi nation and territory.

Lebanon-Israel

IDF forces ended their search in southern Lebanon for two kidnapped IDF soldiers and returned to the security strip 22 February, Jerusalem radio reported. The IDF force withdrew after Israel "exhausted all feasible possibilities" of locating the soldiers in the search area, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said in a subsequent interview with the radio. Rabin added that Israel will continue the search for the soldiers "through various groups." In related developments, the "Islamic Resistance Front" in Beirut announced that it had transferred the two kidnapped Israeli soldiers to "a secure place outside southern Lebanon," according to a Cairo radio report 21 February. AFP later reported that the newspaper of the pro-Iranian Hizbullah Party published a photograph of the two captive Israelis in its 21 February edition with the caption: "The two Israeli prisoners before the execution of one of them."

In a later development, 5 people were killed and 12 injured when a bomb exploded in a car in Beirut 24 February, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

Israel-PLO-Jordan

In further Israeli reaction to King Husayn's 19 February speech, at a cabinet meeting 23 February, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres noted that Israel is currently seeking "clarifications" from the United States concerning King Husayn's remarks, IDF radio reported, and he also denied that the United States has informed Israel of any change in the U.S. position toward the PLO.

Meanwhile, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat expressed "surprise" over Husayn's speech in a statement to London's *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT*, but he added that he is ready to resume dialogue and that all possibilities are "wide open." PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir stated in a press interview cited by KUNA that 'Arafat will attend the forthcoming CPSU congress, though London's *AL-MAJALLAH* reported that the PLO delegation will be headed by Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the PLO's Political Department.

OPEC Affairs

Iran announced its willingness to completely halt oil exports in order to "counteract the plot to reduce oil prices," Tehran radio reported, citing a statement by Iranian Foreign Ministry official Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam prior to his departure for Saudi Arabia. Sheykh ol-Eslam said he will represent Iran, Libya, and Algeria on his visit and present to the Kingdom their joint stance on reducing oil production "to a point where the downward spiral of oil prices will be stemmed." He added that Iran will suggest at the next OPEC meeting that all OPEC members temporarily suspend their oil exports.

Libya-Chad

At a news conference in Ndjamena, Chadian officials presented two prisoners said to be Libyan soldiers captured in fighting at Oum Chalouba 14 February, AFP reported 21 February. The captured Libyans were "technical advisers" working with GUNT troops, the report added. Five other Libyans were killed in clashes in northern Chad 11-14 February, the Chadian information minister told AFP. According to a later AFP report, a Chadian envoy met with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Cairo to request additional Egyptian military support for the battle against rebels in northern Chad.

In an interview with the Greek paper *KIRIAKATIKI ELEVTHEROTIPIA*, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said that France had violated the 1984 Franco-Libyan agreement on Chad by bombing a "civilian airport" in northern Chad, but he added that "despite all this, we will not intervene." Col al-Qadhdhafi also accused the United States and France of working together to "take over" Chad and establish a U.S. base from which the United States could "control the whole African Continent." In a separate development, Tripoli radio announced that the Libyan General People's Congress will meet in Banghazi 25 February.

PDRY

Former leader 'Ali Nasir Muhammad is not in the PDRY, Presidium Secretary 'Ali Ahmad al-Sallami told the UAE's *AL-KHALIJ*. *Al-Sallami's remark followed an 'Ali Nasir* Muhammad interview with Kuwait's *AL-SIYASAH* which the paper said was held at Muhammad's base 180 km from Aden in the PDRY.

FBIS DAILY REPORT
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Commission To Draft Constitution Selected
LD?12315 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] A DRA Revolutionary Council session chaired by Babrak Karmal, PDPA Central Committee general secretary and DRA Revolutionary Council President, was held at the Revolutionary Council headquarters Thursday afternoon [20 February].

The DRA Revolutionary Council in its 16 January extraordinary session issued a resolution on setting up a commission to draft the DRA constitution under Babrak Karmal's chairmanship, and entrusted the Revolutionary Council Presidium with the responsibility for selecting that commission's members. Therefore, this session, after general consideration, approved the composition of the 74-member commission to draft the DRA constitution.

Regarding the issue, Babrak Karmal said:

We have taken another important step today for the realization of the contents of the ten theses, the historic Revolutionary Council statement of 13 November 1985, and the decisions arising from the 16th PDPA Central Committee Plenum.

The representatives of all nationalities, tribes, clans, classes, and social strata from the country's various provinces are participating in the commission to draft the constitution.

This is another vivid sign of the relentless implementation of the party and our revolutionary government's policy in relation to the equal rights of all people residing in our united country, Afghanistan.

Regarding the duties of the commission members, Babrak Karmal said:

The fact that the future constitution of Afghanistan will consolidate and confirm the principles of our country's social, political, and economic system under the present circumstances of the revolution, including the basic rights and duties of the subjects, the activities of the highest organs of authority and government administration, the country's judicial system, and other fundamental affairs shows the very important duties which are entrusted to the commission. The genuine determination of the country's people; a profound respect for and serious observance of the historic, national, cultural, and religious traditions of the noble people of Afghanistan; and our country's present development, must be fully taken into account at the level of our country's constitution.

Moreover, safeguarding [words indistinct] and defense of the national independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and revolutionary gains of the people of Afghanistan; the consolidation of unity and fraternity of all nationalities, tribes, and clans, the victorious growth of the national and democratic revolution; the realization of the revolution's lofty humane objectives; and the pursuit of a peaceful policy, friendship, and cooperation with all people, must form the foundation of the draft of our country's future constitution.

Babrak Karmal added:

We are confident that the commission members will emerge victorious from this formidable responsibility because experienced, trustworthy, and authoritative people are included in it.

Following the 16th PDPA Central Committee Plenum resolutions on further and better implementation of the party's policy in relation to the country's tribes, the Revolutionary Council Presidium also approved the establishment of a commission to draft and compile a Revolutionary Council decree regarding the respect of the rights and traditional freedoms of the tribes by 11 March 1986 and recommended that it be handed over to the Revolutionary Council Presidium at that time.

The competent representatives of the Ministry of Nationalities and Tribes, the DRA Academy of Sciences, Ministry of Justice, and other relevant authorities are included in the composition of this commission. The commission is assigned to promote its work while taking into consideration the historic precedent, present condition, and prideful role of the tribes in the country's defenses and the needs and economic, social, and cultural requirements of the country's tribes for further consoliding understanding and cooperation between the tribes and nationalities residing in the country.

At this Revolutionary Council Presidium session, a number of other issues also were discussed and decisions were made. It was once again pointed out that the Revolutionary Council at its 16 January extraordinary session elected Babrak Karmal chairman of the commission to draft the DRA constitution, and assigned the Revolutionary Council Presidium to select the members of the commission.

Composition of the Commission To Draft the DRA Constitution
Babrak Karmal, chairman of the commission to draft a DRA constitution. Its members are:

1. Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, PDPA Central Committee Politburo member and DRA Council of Ministers chairman;
2. Saleh Mohammad Ziray, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee;
3. Anahita Ratebzad, PDPA Central Committee Politburo member and DWOA chairman;
4. General Nazar Mohammad, PDPA Central Committee Politburo member and DRA defense minister;
5. Solayman La'eq, PDPA Central Committee Politburo candidate member and DRA minister of nationality and tribes;
6. 'Abd Orrashid Arian, vice chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidency, and responsible for the PDPA Central Committee section of supervision and control;
7. Haji Mohammad Samkani, vice chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidency and chairman of the high jerga for tribes;
8. Abdorrahim Hatef, DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium National Fatherland Front [NFF] chairman;
9. Mohammad Anwar Farzam, DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium secretary;
10. Najmoddin Kawieni, DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium member and responsible for the PDPA Central Committee Organization Department;
11. 'Abdol Star Pordeli, DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium member and DRA Trade Union Central Council chairman;

12. Farid Ahmad Mozdak, DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium member and DYOA Central Committee secretary;
13. Shah 'Ali Akbar Shahrestani, DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium member and Kabul University literature faculty chairman;
14. Mohammad A'zam Systani, Revolutionary Council Presidium member and DRA Academy of Sciences member;
15. Adina Sangin, responsible for the PDPA Central Committee Economic Department;
16. Asadollah Habib, Kabul University chancellor;
17. Mawlawi Belal, chairman of the High Council for Ulema and Religious Leaders of Badghis Province;
18. Joma Khan Brati, chairman of the MFP City Council in Meymanch;
19. Khalil Kargar, worker at Jangalak plant;
20. Khowaja Dawd Shah Ayni, chairman of the NFF Provincial Council in Paravan Province;
21. Ruhafza Kargar, worker of [name indistinct] of Kabul Housing Construction;
22. Pahlawan Rahim Dehqan revolution defense group commander in Qaravo District, Konduz Province;
23. Mawlawi Rohollah Abed, chairman of the Islamic [as heard] in Nangarhar Province;
24. Salim Majaz, deputy head of the PDPA Central Committee Department of Defense and Justice;
25. Sayyed Amanoddin Amin, vice chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers Presidency;
26. Sayyed Bolbol Shah, chairman of the NFF Provincial Council in Laghman Province;
27. Sayyed Hares Shah, theologian from Esma'eli section;
28. Sayyed 'Ali Shah Sojadi, NFF vice chairman in Jowzjan.
29. Sayyed Mohammad Golabzoy, DRA minister of internal affairs;
30. Sayyed Mozafaroddin NFF Provincial Council chairman in Herat;
31. Shah Mohammad Dost, DRA foreign affairs minister;
32. Shah Nazar, Helmand governor;
33. Shah Sowar, NFF member in Langar Province;
34. 'Abdol Ahad (?Arezdeli), NFF Provincial Council chairman in Konduz;
34. 'Abdol Haq Ulomi, PDPA Central Committee Department of Defense and Justice member;
35. 'Abdol Karim Shadan, DRA Special Revolutionary Court head;
36. 'Abdol Habib Jalya, DRA Artists Union chairman;
37. 'Abdol Ghafor Baher, adviser minister;
38. 'Abdol Wahed Sorabi, adviser minister
39. 'Abdol Wali Hojat, DRA minister of Islamic affairs and endowment;
40. 'Abdol Wahab Safi, Supreme Court High Council member and chairman of Judge's High Court and Conflict of Jurisdiction;
41. 'Abdol Aziz, deputy head of the religious study faculty of Kabul University;
42. 'Abdol Ghais, former senator from Badakhshan Province;
43. 'Abdol Samay Ghafari, DRA Academy of Sciences scientific secretary;
44. 'Abdol Salam Bahzad, Herat Writer Union chairman;
45. 'Abdollah [as heard], former parliament member from Kapisa Province;
46. Gholam Sarwar Manzor, chairman of the High Council for Ulema and Religious Leaders of the DRA;
47. Gholam Faroq Yaqubi, DRA state security minister;
48. Gholam Mohayoddin Ommar, DRA Supreme Court vice chairman;
49. Gholam Sakhi Mas'un, DRA Lawyer Society chairman;
50. Gholam Naqshband, NFF chairman in Zabol;
51. Haji Kandahar, NFF chairman in Paktia;
52. Ghol Mohammad Peshawar, Kabul City Bakeries Trade Union chairman;
53. Kangaram [as heard] a national tradesman;
54. Ghol Khan Solayman Khel, tribal leader in Paktika Province;
55. Haji Lal Mohammad Kochi, tribal leader;
56. (?Malezay) Tota Khel, Kabul University faculty of law and political science dean;
57. Mahboba [as heard] Kabul University law and political science faculty professor;
58. Mohammad Akbar Kherad, DRA charge d'affairs in the permanent representation in Geneva;
59. Mohammad Akbor Shormach, nationality and tribes deputy minister;
60. Mohammad Akram Abqari, Attorney General Office chairman;
61. Mohammad Anwar Esar, secretary of the Nangarhar party provincial committee;
62. Mohammad Anwar (?Numyali), DRA Academy of Sciences member;
63. Muhammad Bashi Baghlani, DRA minister of justice;
64. Mohammad Osman Rasekh, DRA attorney general;
65. Mohammad Ewaz Badghisay, a national tradesman;
66. Mohammad Asef A'hang, member of the Executive Committee of the council of the representative of Kabul's first ward;
67. Mawlawi Mohammad Jan, chairman of the Council of Ulema and Religious Leaders in Farah Province;
68. Mohammad Farid Zarif, DRA permanant representative of the UN;
69. Mohammad Hashem Moshwanay, former senator from Konar Province;
70. Qari Mohammad Nabi, preacher at Pol-e Khoshti mosque in Kabul;
71. Mohammad Yaqub Komak, head of the Legislation and Science and Legal Research Institute of the DRA Justice Ministry;
72. Nezammodin Tahzib, DRA Supreme Court member; and
73. (?Helaloddin) Badri, former member of parliament and now chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of the representative of the people of Mazar-e Sharif city.

Karmal Delegation Leaves for CPSU Congress

LD231411 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Kabul, 23 Feb (BAKHTAR) — Babrak Karmal general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, heading a high-ranking party delegation, left this morning for Moscow by special airplane, at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee to participate in the 27th CPSU Congress. Other delegation members include: Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Council of Ministers; Saleh Mohammad Ziray and Najibollah, members of the Politburo and Secretariat of the PDPA Central Committee.

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Zia Expresses 'Satisfaction' With Democratic Process
BK221700 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has expressed his complete satisfaction on the working of the democratic process initiated by him in the country. Talking to newsmen on arrival in Sibi this afternoon, he said he would not join any political party. He, however, would continue to extend his full cooperation to the present government.

Answering a question, the president said members of the bureaucracy could not afford to go against the elected government. They are servants of the people for which they are given training and they would not work against the wishes of the elected government.

Commenting on his meeting with the special envoy of Iran, the president said Pakistan had already made new initiatives to bring an end to the conflict between Iran and Iraq through the Islamic Peace Committee. He said it is their desire to end this unfortunate conflict.

Junejo Speaks on Constitution to Public Meeting
BK201156 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1005 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has spoken of his government's determination to abide by the principles of justice and equality and not to indulge in any threats. He was addressing a huge public meeting in Sibi this morning as part of his meet the people campaign. A large number of people listened to the prime minister's speech despite drizzling. The prime minister held out an assurance that Islam would reign supeme in the country and the constitution will be amended to bring about the supremacy of Islam. He was confident that the elected representatives would discharge their duties in making the constitution fully Islamic.

The objective before them was to usher in a true democratic era and for this purpose formation of political parties was essential. To make parliamentary system a success, the government has allowed the formation of political parties. As an ordinary Muslim League worker, he had decided to organize the Pakistan Muslim League.

The prime minister pointed out that the government is following the principles laid down by Qaide Azam [Mohammad Ali Jinnah] ever since its induction into office. He told the gathering that the founder of Pakistan had great love and affection for the people of Baluchistan who always supported the Muslim League and their vote was the decisive factor in the establishment of Pakistan. He urged the people from other parts of the country as well as from Baluchsitan to make Pakistan strong and establish true democracy.

Iranian Special Envoy Meets Zia, Junejo
BK220601 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo have expressed deep concern on behalf of the people and Government of Pakistan about the war between the two fraternal Islamic countries Iran and Iraq. They expressed their feelings when the special envoy of the Iranian president, Mr Mir Mehdi, called on them separately in Rawalpindi yesterday. The president said Pakistan, individually and in conjunction with other members of the Islamic Peace Committee, has been and would continue to try to bring this war to an end.

The prime minister explained Pakistan's continuous efforts to bring the war between the two countries to an end and said his government would continue these efforts.

The special envoy of the Iranian president, Mr Mir Mehdi, also held talks with Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in Islamabad yesterday. Later addressing a news conference, he described these talks as fruitful. Mr Mir Mehdi expressed satisfaction at the Pakistan-Iran relations and said relations between the two countries are extremely friendly and fraternal.

Urgent Session of ICO Peace Committee Requested
BK221532 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Pakistan has requested an urgent session of the Islamic Peace Committee. According to informed sources in Islamabad, the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, Sayed Sharifuddin Pirzada, has been informed of the request. Pakistan believes that at a time when a serious situation has developed due to the Iran-Iraq war resulting in the loss of precious lives in two fraternal Islamic countries, it is the duty of the Islamic Peace Committee to fulfill the responsibilities reposed in it by the islamic community. All other members of the Islamic Peace Committee are being apprised of Pakistan's efforts.

Technology Cooperation Protocol Signed With PRC
BK230540 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Pakistan and China signed a seventh protocol on science and technology cooperation in Islamabad today. The protocol pertains to cooperation in various fields of science and technology such as railways, industrial standard, textile technology, aquaculture, oil exploration technology, oceanographic research, and exchange of scientists and technologists.

After signing the protocol, the leader of the Chinese delegation, Mr Guo Shuyan, expressed satisfaction on the implementation of various items in the previous protocol. The secretary Minsitry of Science and Technology [as heard] who signed the protocol on behalf of Paksitan assured full cooperation of the Pakistan Government for the implementation of the program and cooperative activities proposed in the seventh protocol.

Further Reportage on Civilian Plane Downed by Iraq

Khomeyni Issues Message

LD221521 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] In connection with the latest crime perpetrated by the Saddam regime in its barbarous attack on an Islamic Republic of Iran passenger aircraft, which culminated in the martyrdom of a group of our compatriots, Imam Khomeyni has issued a message:

In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful. To God we belong and to him we return.

The 'Aflaqite criminals, finding themselves helpless on the fronts of the war, particularly the Al-Faw front, have resorted to all means in panic, using every kind of hashish drug to save themselves. They have embarked on yet another disgraceful crime, completely destroying their already nonexistence good name in the forums of the free world: the latest air tragedy whereby they martyred a large group of our dear compatriots.

Dear Islam, particulary the world of Shi'ism, since the inception of Islam to the present time, has always boasted of a brilliant record on the battlefields of blood and sword. By the command of the Holy Koran and the tradition of the apostle of God — may God's benedictions and peace be upon him and his scion! — and the biography of the immaculate imams — may God's benedictions be upon them! — in order to attain the sacred Islamic goals and terminate corruption, dear Islam has been closely involved with the sword and blood and has made immense sacrifices along this sacred path!

The great Iranian nation, following the example of the illustrious saints of Islam, has begun this sacred defense and in carrying out the same and attaining the lofty goals of the Koran, has voluntarily sacrificed lives and properties and thereby has worthily carried out what has been its divine duty. Praise be to God Almighty, it has made giant strides along the path of deceminating the divine Islam of Muhammad — may God's benediction and peace be upon him and his scion! Though it has lost dear and worthy beings, it has acquired greater and loftier values, i.e., the pleasure of God Almighty — and what could be greater than this! What could a nation which has carried out a revolution to please God Almighty and which has risen for spiritual and humanitarian values possibly fear from the martyrdom of its dear ones, or from the injuries sustained and the enduring of hardships and adversities, when reaching the heaven of meeting God, which transcends the imagination of the seers, involves suffering adversities! What am I saying! This heaven of the saints has made adversities sweeter than honey to our nation!

Are you and we not daily witnessing these Karbala convoys which welcome martyrdom with enthusiasm, zeal, and thirst! Are you not daily witnessing the glorious fields of battle against the aggressors where our people are smiling in the face of death and creating miracles! Indeed, what courage is this which is brilliantly shining throughout this country of the lord of the era — may my soul be sacrificed to him! What inferno is this which is sucking in and melting the deviants, evil-minded, and ill-wishers! This is nothing but God's blessing and his manifestation from which the bats are fleeing and to which God's saints and seers are attaching their hearts!

With this broken pen and my closed eyes, what could I possibly say in praise of this nation and its resolve, and these combatants and their battle! So it would be better if I were to break my pen, say nothing and instead pray to the great God to grant reward and recompense to the combatants and their next of kin, the injured and those who love them!

May I hope that the bounteous Lord graciously permits these guests coming to him to enjoy the favor of his presence and graciously grants greater might and strength to these glorious combatants and to the entire dear nation, particularly those who are active and participating in this jihad along the path of God, glory, and greatness.

May he graciously permit these dear people who, after this air crime, are flying toward him to find favor and received in his special presence. May he graciously permit Hojjat ol-Eslam, Hajj Sheykh Fazlollah Mahallati, the dear martyr who you and I know spent his life along the path of the revolution, and was one of the brilliant personalities of the revolution who endured difficulties and suffered torments along this path which is the path of God almighty and remained steadfast with raised head, the favor of joining the ranks of the martyrs of the dawn of Islam. May he graciously grant fortitude and reward to the esteemed next of kin of all the martyrs and graciously grant recompense beyond our wildest dreams to the dear clergy, the esteemed judges, worthy deputies, their dear guards and esteemed air crew, and others who have attained martyrdom as a result of this heinous crime of the 'Aflaqites, thanks to espionage information supplied by the polytheistic Monafiqin.

May he also graciously grant final victory to the combatants on the fronts and the Basif fighters, these Karbala marchers, and graciously gladden the heart of the holy hidden imam — may our souls be sacrificed to him — with all of us and may he graciously grant us all steadfastness as prayed by the holy hidden imam.

Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you!

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi-Khomeyni, 3 Esfand 1364 [22 February 1986]

Musavi Publishes Statement

LD211923 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 21, IRNA — In a statement published here Friday Prime Minister Musavi deplored the Iraqi downing of a passenger plane near the city of Ahvaz in Kuzestan Province of Iran Thursday, warning that continuation of such criminal acts would be a threat to the safety of air travel throughout the world. He also said that the silence of responsible world bodies towards the incident would be a paving of the way for future of such criminial acts in the future.

The Iranian prime minister said that the Islamic Republic is capable of punishing the Iraqi Government in the battlefields and that it will do so in the due course.

Musavi said any call for peace between two warring parties without a concurrent condemnation of the aggressor party is a call for continuation of aggression and for conspiracy against the Islamic revolution in Iran.

Musavi Warns Saddam Backers

LD222115 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Here is a statement by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi on the latest Iraqi crime of attacking an Aseman passenger aircraft which extolls the martyrs of this horrible crime and declares:

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran hereby warns all backers of the Saddam criminal regime that the continuation of these crimes will endanger air security throughout the world. The Islamic Republic of Iran is capable of repaying this black deed by the infidel Baghdad regime on the warfronts and will most certainly do so.

Montazeri Sends Telegram

LD211751 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Feb 86

["Text" of telegram of condolences from Grand Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri to the imam of the Islamic nation, Ayatollah Ruhollah Musavi-Khomeyni, on the shooting down of a passenger aircraft by Iraqi fighters]

[Text] In his exalted name. To the blessed presence of Grand Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni — may his lofty shadow be extended.

There are men from among the faithful who are true to what they have promised God, among whom are those who have passed away and those who are awaiting their demise. Saddam once again has embarked upon another heinous crime and by attacking a civilian aircraft has martyred a number of people dear to us, including your holiness' esteemed representative to the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, his excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahalati; a number of right honorable deputies of the Islamic consultative assembly; judges and Shari'a judges; militant clergymen; and other brothers — may their esoteric mystery be sanctified.

Such crimes emanating from the likes of the criminal Saddam, who has lost his morale and equilibrium thanks to the recent victories scored by Islam's dear combatants, are no cause for surprise, just as such acts of martyrdom for these dear people and dear combatant brothers, forever seeking virtue and enamored of martyrdom along the path of righteousness, constitute bliss and such great victory!

What gives rise to anxiety and sorrow is the benighted heathenism and barbarism reigning supreme over the policy of the world arrogant powers and so-called international forums which have become tools of the former, and also the weakness and lack of personality of the subservient heads of a great many countries in the region. How could these people consider themselves advocates of civilization and human rights while they remain quiet vis-a-vis the innumerable crimes perpetrated by Western and Eastern hirelings in Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Afghanistan, and elsewhere? They thereby stamp a seal of approval on the degradation of human values and the crimes of reaction ruling humanity in this century. How could the powers supporting Saddam justify such crimes and what answer can they give when confronted by the wakeful conscience of their own nations and mankind's future generations when they have placed their entire military, economic, and scientific capabilities at the disposal of a criminal who has outdone all criminals in history in wickedness? The day when criminal Saddam occupies Iran's cities and territory and has no mercy on all and sundry, both young and old, or when usurping Israel launches an onslaught on the Palestine nation and Lebanon and perpetrates all that murder and rapine, the region's reactionaries merely play the role of onlookers. However, now that revolutionary Iran is striving toward retrieving its right from Saddam and the traitorous Ba'th party of Iraq, they create all this pandemonium shouting: Oh, world peace is endangered.

I am confident that Islam's intrepid combatants, forever strengthened with the power of faith and will and love for Husaynite Karbala and the liberty of Jerusalem, will soon reply to Saddam's horrifying crime on the fronts and thereby gain fresh conquests for Islam.

May I extend congratulations and condolences to the holy lord of the era — may our lives be sacrificed to his cause — and to your holiness and their patient and enduring families for the martyrdom of these dear ones and of the rest of the glorious martyrs of Islam. And may I pray for their being granted their lofty recompense and benediction of God Almighty on the side of the glorious saints of Islam and the dear martyrs of Karbala, immense rewards and great courage for their next of kin and great families, and a nigh victory and divine succour for the marchers to Karbala and Islam's combatants and those traversing the sacred path of these dear people.

Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you!

Signed, Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri

Dated, 2 Esfand 1364 [21 February 1986].

Majlis Speaker Pledges Revenge

LD221235 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the representative of the imam to the Supreme Defense Council, delivered a speech noting the importance of the blood of martyrs in speeding the materialization of the ideals of the revolution. He stressed the condemnation of recent crimes carried out by the Ba'thists on the world arena, declaring that the warriors of Islam will bring revenge on the Iraqi regime for this crime.

Addressing the huge rally present at the ceremonies, he stated that the pure bodies that are being carried in front of the Islamic consultative assembly, house of the nation, are those lofty clergymen who chose to travel to their place of missionary duty.

Emphasizing that the incident was important in exposing the character of the enemy and the Ba'thist-'Aflaqite party, he said that the defeated Iraqi regime which is bogged down at the fronts, violated international rules and struck at a civilian airliner, which is supposed to be immune from aggression, by firing machine guns and two missiles, and killed a number of our religious and political personalities and our dear members.

The Majlis speaker added that all the world mass media, including those opposed to us, have examined this issue, condemned this crime, and admitted Saddam's savagery.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that the Security Council has come up against a historical test. God provided divine proof just when they had arranged the Security Council session with a huge ballyhoo; once again, world opinion has been alerted to what traitors and wolves have lined up against revolutionary Islam.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: I foresee that our warriors will deal such a heavy blow at the face of this 'Aflaqite party that they will not rise again, since every drop of the martyrs' blood will penetrate the hearts of the enemies, just like bullets, and the martyrdom of this group will increase the determination of warriors at the fronts. In conclusion, the speaker of the Islamic consultative assembly praised the Muslim nation for their support of such gatherings on behalf of the Majlis deputies and judicial officers as well as every state official. He prayed for final victory by the Islamic combatants and strengthening of the Islamic Front.

The Hezbollah ummah present during the cermeonies and during the speech by the Majlis speaker, who were very saddened by the recent crime that Saddam committed in violation of international codes by attacking the defenseless civilian airliner, demanded a just response to the criminal Saddam and uttered crushing slogans.

Majlis Statement

LD211656 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Feb 86

["Statement" by the Islamic consultative assembly on the shooting down of an Iranian airliner by Iraqi fighters]

[Excerpt] The criminal Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi regime, by its fighter aircrafts' evil attack against an airliner, once again has committed a flagrant violation of international law, created a tragedy, and caused the martyrdom of all passengers on board that airliner, including eight dear Majlis deputies. The Majlis expresses congratulations and condolences to his holiness the most great remnant of God, to his rightful deputy Imam Khomeyni, to the esteemed families, and to the constituenets of those great ones on the biood-soaked fall of those lovers of the path of God, those selfless marchers on the road to monotheism, and those teachers of generosity and selflessness who now have met their creator. They are perpetuating the creation of epics of steadfastness and selflessness of the valiant warriors of Hezbollah ummah.

Foreign Envoys Urged To Condemn Act

LD211122 Tehran IRNA in English 1100 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 21, IRNA — The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran urged foreign ambassadors and charge d'affaires to Tehran to condemn the Baghdad regime's latest war crime in attacking an Iranian passenger plane Thursday.

In an official note to the foreign representatives here, the Foreign Ministry also called on their countries to adopt necessary international measures to prevent repetition of such horrible crimes.

A Fokker Friendship chartered by Iran's domestic 'Aseman' airlines was shot down by invading Iraqi planes on a flight from Tehran to Ahvaz in southern Iran. The plane with over forty-five passangers aboard, crashed in an areas 25 kms north of Ahvaz and all its passengers were martyred.

There were some Iranian officials, including Imam's representative at the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), several majlis deputies, and a number of justice department lawyers among the victims.

The foreign ministry note said the plane, an F-27 passenger plane, was shot by air-to-air missiles from two invading Iraqi fighters at 12:20 hours local time (08:50 GMT).

It also siad the Baghdad regime itself had admitted the inhuman crime but to divert the public opinion, it had claimed the downing of a C-130 transport plane just half an hour after the incident.

In another statement issued Thursday evening, the Foreign Ministry said such inhuman and criminal acts by the Baghdad regime would only make the Iranian nation and the Islamic combatants more determined in achieving their divine objectives.

In related news, the pure bodies of the victims of this horrible crime of the Iraqi regime were transferred to Tehran this afternoon.

A funeral procession will be held for the martyrs of the incident in front of the Majlis building here, beginning at 08:00 hours (04:30 GMT) Saturday.

UK Called on To Clarify Stance

LD221850 Tehran IRNA in English 1702 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] London, FEB. 22, IRNA — The Islamic Republic has called on Britain to clarify its stance regarding the Iraqi attack on an Iranian civilian plane which took the lives of some 40 passengers, including several Majlis (parliament) deputies. The call was made in a note handed by the Iranian charge d'affaires in London, Mr Jalal Sadatian to the British Foreign Office undersecretary of state for Middle East affairs, Sir David Mires.

In the note Britain was requested to express its position on the latest Iraqi crime in downing a passenger plane chartered by Iran's Aseman Airlines, Thursday just north of Ahvaz in southwest Iran.

It also said the silence of the British Government and the international organizations vis-a-vis the Iraqi use of chemical weapons is encouraging the Baghdad regime to continue its war crimes.

Mr Sadatian told IRNA after the meeting that the British official had said that his government was not keeping silent on the issue as Britain is to support a U.N. Security Council resolution in relation to the war which mentions this issue.

Mr Sadatian also said that since Britain has refused to condemn the Iraqi use of chemical weapons for the so-called lack of evidence, he invited them to meet the Iranian combatants being treated in London for wounds suffered in Iraqi chemical attacks.

The Iranian charge d'affaires said the Islamic Republic also hopes that a comment made by a Foreign Office official on the sale of chemical materials to Iraq which could have been used in the production of weapons be seriously followed up and all aspects of the matter be clarified.

A Foreign Office official told IRNA Thursday that the British Government tightened its regulations for the export of chemical materials to Iraq and Iran after realizing that the materials sent to Iraq, apparently for production of fertilizer, could have been used to manufacture chemical weapons.

Italy 'Expected' To Clarify Stand

LD231835 Tehran IRNA in English 1744 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb 23, IRNA — Italy's ambassador to Tehran Guiseppe Bladucci met and conferred here Sunday with Deputy Prime Minister for Cultural Affairs Alireza Mo'ayyeri.

In the meeting the deputy premier discoursed with the Italian ambassador on the downing of an Iranian passenger plane by Iraqi war planes, terming it an "obvious violation of international aviation regulations on security of civilian airlines." More than 40 Iranian officials were martyred in Iraq's criminal downing of the civilian airliner on February 20.

Mo'ayyeri also expressed regret over the silence of international forums on the issue.

He furthermore told the Italian ambassador that the Islamic Republic expects Italy to clarify its position on the issue and adopt appropriate measures vis-a-vis the Iraqi crime.

On Iraq's deployment of chemical weapons, the deputy premier said that as long as the Security Council does not take an explicit stand in condemning the Baghdad regime for using internationally banned chemical substances, then Iraq will only feel encouraged to commit future acts of barbarity.

The Italian ambassador emphasized [words indistinct] countries saying that his country will act within its capacity to expand Tehran-Rome relations.

Red Cross Condemnation Urged

LD231856 Tehran IRNA in English 1832 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 23, IRNA — Iran Sunday called on the International Committee of the Red Cross to condemn Iraq's attack on a passenger plane while domestic and foriegn politicians expressed concern over the incident.

The head of Iran's Red Crescent Society Vahid Dastjerdi in a message of senior officials of the international organizations said that silence regarding the attack would encourage the aggressor Iraq to repeat its crimes.

Meanwhile the Malawi Liberation Movement and South Africa's Islamic Council sent messages of condolences on the martyrdom of tens of Iranian officials in the downing of the airliner by Iraqi war planes in Ahvaz on 20 February.

Inside Iran, the office of the Friday prayers leaders, the foundation for the oppressed, Sunni ulema and Afghanistan's Jamiyat-e Eslami office expressed sorrow over the incident.

Victims Buried in Qom

LD221750 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Excerpt] The pure bodies of Hojjat ol-Eslam Val-Moslemin Mahallati, the imam's representative to the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, and the other true friends of the imam of the Islamic nation and the Islamic revolution, martyred during the criminal attack on the passenger aircraft by the Baghdad regime, were buried this afternoon in an auspicious ceremony attended by the representatives of the imam of the Islamic nation and Grand Ayatollah Montazeri and a large group of the inhabitants of Qom.

Leaders Attend Funeral

LD221210 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Excerpt] The pure bodies of the martyrs of the latest tragic crime of the Zionist Iraqi regime, this morning, passed in procession before the Islamic consultative assembly in the course of a magnificent funeral ceremony attended by a dense crowd of our self-sacrificing and selfless people. This great ceremony was attended by the president, the speaker of the Islamic consultative assembly, the head of the Supreme Court, members of the Supreme Judicial Council, the prime minister, cabinet ministers, deputies of the Majlis, the secretary of the Association of Militant Clergy of Tehran, the representative of the imam of the ummah's office, and other groups of military and state officials. The patriotic crowd of Muslim inhabitants of Tehran praised the martyrs of the passenger plane, condemned the shameless crime

of the Ba'thist Iraqi regime, and called on the combatants to deliver the final blow to the rotten body of the regime of Saddam and to take revenge against Saddam for the blood of these innocent martyrs.

Council of Guardians Member Speaks

LD231933 Tehran IRNA in English 1850 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 23, IRNA — A ceremony commemorating the martyrs of the downed Iranian passenger plane by aggressive Iraqi warplanes on Thursday, were [as received] held here Sunday, attended by a group of the country's officials as well as multitudes of people at the martyr Motahari school.

In the ceremony attended by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi and Chief Justice Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, the people chanted slogans calling for the continuation of Iran's defensive war against Iraqi until victory.

A member of the Council of Guardians, Hojjat ol-Eslam Emani Kashani that the "global arrogance thinks that such savagery like attacking a passenger plane or the other various plots would lessen the Iranian people's faith and love for the Islamic Revolution and Islam."

Hoj. Emani Kashani further said that these blind-hearted people so far have been unable to comprehend the realities despite all the bitter experiences they have gained through their numerous conspiracies against the Iranian Muslim nation.

He added that if the United Nations Security Council had paid the slightest attention to the Iraqi imposed war from the very beginning, the invasion against the Islamic Republic would have not reached its present phase.

Hojjat ol-eslam Emani Kashani further said that Iranian Muslim nation will not compromise in the war and will never relinquish its just demand that the cruel Saddam Husayn be allowed to continue in power.

Prime Minister Denies Use of Chemical Weapons

LD231610 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 23, IRNA — Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi here Sunday, denied rumours that Iran had deployed chemical weapons against Iraqi troops in the war fronts. The prime minister said that the world-wide protests against Iraq's frequent use of chemical weapons has forced the Baghdad regime to attribute such criminal acts to Iran in a bid to rid herself of the accusation.

The Iraqi regime recently resumed using of chemical weapons against Iranian forces in Al-Faw peninsula and a number of Islamic combatants wounded in the Iraqi chemical bombardments are being treated in several European countries. Shortly after the end of a Cabinet session here Sunday, the prime minister categorically denied these Iraqi claim and said that the world knows well that it was Saddam Husayn's regime that was deploying chemical weapons against Iranian forces.

The prime minister said that Iran has not yet deployed chemical weapons although it is capable of doing so. He warned that if the Iraqi aggression continued Iran would give a proper answer to it.

The Cabinet in its Sunday meet reviewed the latest developments in the war fronts and in the country as well as the outcome of the visit by the ministers of foreign affairs and oil to Algiers.

Referring to the recent downing of an Iranian passenger plane by Iraqi war planes, the prime minister said that Iran's Islamic combatants would not leave this crime of the Iraqi regime unanswered.

Aqazadeh Notes Proposal To Halt OPEC Oil Production

LD221148 Tehran IRNA in English 1116 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran Feb 22 IRNA — Iran will propose a temporary halt in oil production by OPEC member countries, in the organization's forthcoming session, said the Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh here saturday.

Speaking at a press conference here he said that the measure was proposed by Iran in the recent tripartite meeting of the oil ministers of Iran, Libya and Algeria.

In the Algiers tripartite meeting, Iran suggested that in order to encounter the oil price reduction, the oil producing countries should stop pumping oil for a period of two weeks to a month to be followed by a daily production cut of 10 million barrel so that oil shortage will be experienced in the world.

More on oil price cuts, the Iranian oil minister said that if no serious measure was taken, an uncontrollable crisis will be created and oil producing countries will suffer the most. Aqazadeh told reporters that Iran has earnestly urged oil producing countries to reduce their output significantly so that the prices will pick up.

In the tripartite meeting it was decided that a representative be assigned to contact the Saudi officials and request them to coordinate their moves with other members of OPEC and reduce Saudi oil production.

In a bid to coordinate efforts of the OPEC members and enable them to take a unified stance in the next March session of OPEC, Iran, Libya and Algeria will call on other OPEC members to hold a preliminary meeting in Geneva to discuss oil prices and production quota.

More on the tripartite meeting, he said that one of the issues discussed was economic consequences of the current oil price decline. The western industrialized countries and the U.S. in particular will benefit 100 billion dollars annually from the current price cuts.

On the contrary, the oil producing countries will suffer great economic problems and will face more economic difficulties if they are unable to sell their oil. Therefore, he added, the oil producing countries due to their economic conditions have to export their oil.

Within the next several months, he added, effects of price cuts on the economy of most OPEC or non-OPEC oil producers will become evident. This situation will make these countries to take more practical measures to solve the issue.

Departs for UAE

LD232136 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Unit, Aqazadeh, the oil minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, left for the UAE today, at the head of a delegation.

During the trip, our country's oil minister and his entourage will meet the UAE oil minister and other officials and discuss ways of seriously fighting against the plot to reduce oil prices and other OPEC-related issues.

Finance Minister Receives Soviet Envoy for Talks

LD221739 Tehran IRNA in English 1714 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 22, IRNA — Soviet Ambassador to Tehran V.K. Boldyrev met and conferred with Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani here Saturday.

Discussed in the meeting was future joint meeting of the two countries which is to be held here.

Further Reports on Basharati's Visit to Damascus

Meets Al-Asad, Al-Shar'

LD231030 Tehran IRNA in English 1014 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Damascus, Feb. 23, IRNA — President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria said here Saturday night that Iran had no territorial ambition on Iraq and fully respected rights of the Iraqi people in determining their own fate.

"The main problem is Saddam and not the Iraqi nation and territory," he added.

The Syrian President was speaking in a meeting with the Iranian Acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati who in a two-hour talks with President al-Asad delivered a letter from President 'Ali Khamene'i.

During the meeting the latest developments in war fronts, the recent victories of the Iranian forces in Al-Faw peninsula, cutting off Iraq's access to the Persian Gulf and also issues of the region were discussed.

Besharati stressed that Iran was determined to regain its legitimate rights violated by the Iraqi regime, through punishing the aggressor. After this, he added, the Iraqi people will take their destiny into their own hands.

Meanwhile in a meeting with the Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq Al-Shar', Saturday, Besharati handed over a letter from the Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and discussed the latest developments in war fronts.

Referring to the Iraqi aggression, Besharati said that the Iraqi regime attacked Iran and still occupies a small part of the Iranian territory. The Iraqi regime, he added, still keeps our cities under its artillery and missile attacks.

On the ongoing Iranian offensive, he said that it aimed at silencing the enemy fire and giving a slight punishment to the aggressor.

More on the offensive he said that the Iranian forces were advancing ahead but had no territorial designs on Iraq. "The operation is part of Iran's defence and after punishment and downfall of Saddam, the Muslim people of Iraq will decide for themselves."

On Iran's ties with the neighbouring countries, Besharati said that the Iranian operation was not a threat against countries of the Persian Gulf region and thah interest of the countries supporting Saddam required that they should cease supporting him.

"No power," he added, "could stop struggle of our nation unless the Iraqi aggressor regime is overthrown."

On Iraqi aggressions, he referred to the latest downing of an Iranian passenger plane by Iraqi jet fighters.

The Syrian foreign minister condemned the downing of the passenger plane and said that it was an act of savagery. He added that his government has always condemned Iraqi aggressions and also its violation of international rights, including deployment of chemical weapons and downing of passenger plane. Faruq al-Shar' added that the stance of the Syrian Government remained unchanged and that it has all along held the Iraqi regime responsible for all the massacre and destructions. It is the right of the Islamic Republic of Iran, he added, to punish the aggressor. The Syrian Government, he concluded, was sure that Iran has no territorial ambitions on Iraq.

Reassures Gulf States of Intentions

LD231824 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Damascus, Feb. 23, IRNA — The acting foreign minister of the Islamic Republic, 'Ali Mohammad Besharati Sunday said [words indistinct] peaceful coexistence with Arab states of the Persian Gulf.

Speaking to a press conference at the end of his visit to Syria, Besharati said "Iran's friends in the Persian Gulf must rest assured that Iran aims only at silencing the quarrelsome Iraqi regime."

In reference to Kuwait he said "some Arab states of the Persian Gulf have helped Iraq from the very beginning of the war and have increased the number of our martyrs."

Relations between Iran and the (?GCC) Council improved this year when the council refused to express support for Iraq or condemn Iran.

But the Islamic Republic has been calling on Kuwait to distance itself from Iraq and to end its financial and political support to the Baghdad government. [Words indistinct] is concerned about the future. But the Islamic Republic believes that even its token support should be discontinued.

"After the punishment of Saddam and his downfall, the Islamic Republic of Iran has no intention to holding Iraqi soil and will respect the will of the Iraqi people in choosing their own type of government," he said.

Special Envoy Lavasani Meets With UAE Officials

LD221754 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb 22, IRNA — Iran's special envoy, Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani, Friday met with Shaykh Hamdan Zayid ibn al-Nuhayyan as well as other officials of the United Arab Emirates.

In the meeting Lavasani emphasised that the only solution to the Iraqi imposed war is the fall of the Iraqi regime.

Lavasani said that the two countries should cooperate with each other until and after the fall of Saddam as a means to halt foreign intervention in the Persian Gulf region.

The rulers of UAE also emphasised on the need for expansion of relations between Iran and their country.

Sheykh ol-Eslam To Discuss Oil, War in Saudi Arabia

GF240518 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Text] In the wake of the agreement reached at the tripartite Iran-Algeria-Libya session, Sheykh ol-Eslam, political under Secretary of our country's Foreign Ministry, left for Saudi Arabia yesterday at the head of a delegation. Prior to his departure, he spoke on the firm determination of the Islamic Republic of Iran to counteract the plot to reduce oil prices. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran is willing to completely halt its oil exports for a specified period despite its preoccupation with the imposed war and the necessary expenditure for this war. Regarding the aim of his visit to Saudi Arabia, he said: The real objective of this visit is part of the widespread political and economic campaign that the Islamic Republic of Iran has initiated, with the coordination of other oil producing countries, Libya and Algeria in particular, to render the latest plot to reduce oil prices inefficacious.

According to the Central News Unit, the political under secretary of our country's Foreign Ministry added: The Islamic Republic of Iran, along with Libya and Algeria, has convened two important tripartite sessions, one in Tripoli at the level of oil ministers, and the other in Algeirs at the level of foreign, oil, and economic affairs' ministers. Momentous decisions were made by the three countries in Algiers regarding the foiling of the present oil market circumstances. At this session, it was decided that a delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran should represent Iran, Libya, and Algeria on a visit to Saudi Arabia to explain their joint stance on the plot to lower oil prices. Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam alluded to the fact that the latest plot to bring down oil prices by Western countries and some others is aimed at the Islamic Republic of Iran and other progressive member-countries of OPEC who resist the exploitative policies of world oppression. He said: It is obvious that the slump in oil prices will have deleterious and irrevocable effects on the economies of the oil-producing countries. The Western world has tailored this conspiracy to reduce inflation in its own economy. He added: As we have reiterated, we will fight this plot with all the resources at our disposal. Our recommendation in this regard is to reduce oil production to a point where the downward spiral of oil prices will be stemmed. As the oil minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced earlier, we will suggest at the next regular OPEC session that all member-countries suspend their oil exports for a specified period.

When asked if bilateral relations and the imposed war will also be discussed with Saudi officials during his visit, the political under secretary said: The main aim of this visit is to explain the joint decisions of Iran, Libya, and Algeria to the Saudi authorities. However, it is natural that we will inform the Saudi officials of our consistent stand on the imposed war and determination to continue it until the complete elimination of the cause of tension in the area, that is, the Saddamist regime. The latest atrocity perpetrated by the criminal Ba'thist Iraqi regime in downing a civilian Iranian plane is evidence of the fact that Saddam, like all dictators in the last days of their existence, has been seized by paranoia. Fortunately, most countries, especially the littoral states of the Persian Gulf, realize that they should not link their fate to Saddam's destiny and this is a positive point in our relations with these countries. In the past year the awareness of the Islamic Republic of Iran by some of the littoral states of the Persian Gulf has resulted in the removal of some misunderstandings and ambiguities and an improvement in our relations with these countries.

Cabinet Reviews Plans for Employees To Join Warfronts

LD231146 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Excerpts] The Cabinet met today and discussed various current issues and then approved proposals made by special committee for engineering support for the war. The proposals concern encouraging employees who volunteer to go to battlefronts as well as military training for civil servants.

Afterward, the prime minister spoke to a correspondent from the Central News Unit and, having expressed his sadness over the martyrdom of a number of our country's prominent figures when an Iranian passenger plane was shot down by Iraq, emphasized: This devious act by the Iraqi regime will not go unanswered. In today's Cabinet meeting everyone praised the martyrs. The prime minister, continuing his remarks, said: In today's meeting, Foreign Minister Velayati and Oil Minister Aqazadeh briefed the cabinet on their participation in the tripartite Iran, Libya,

and Algeria meeting. It was stressed that the oil producers are unanimous on maintaining prices and production ceilings. Obviously, there are one or two countries who are in the service of the United States. As for them, we are hoping that they will modify their policies and avoid being at loggerheads with their nations.

Commenting on the Security Council session, the prime minister said: If the decisions taken by the Security Council do not constitute a condemnation of the Iraqi aggressor, then they will have no validity as far as we are concerned. All in all, since the revolution we have come to consider international organizations to be unjust in their dealing with us; because the superpowers strongly overshadow these organizations. Prime Minister Musavi then added: In our meeting, another issue concerning a memorandum was also discussed. It concerns preliminary arrangements for civil servants wishing to go to battlefronts. Measures should be taken to organize it and include them in the 20-million army and the mobilization forces thus engendering an extensive and all-embracing training in government departments. He said: This has a twofold purpose: Firstly, military training for civil servants and, secondly, to promote the battlefront ethic within departments. To achieve these, in each department a post entitled deputy and adviser for war affairs will be created. Subsequently, all departments will be required to provide 5 percent of their manpower to this newly created command. Apart from departments, the provinces will have a headquarters under the supervision of governors general. It would then be up to each governor general to bring about the necessary coordination. [passage indistinct]

Envoy to FRG Says No Peace Negotiations With Saddam

LD211822 Tehran IRNA in English 1805 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Bonn, Feb 21, IRNA — Iran's Ambassador to Federal Republic of Germany Mr Salari in a press and televised conference here Thursday said that Iran will not sit at any peace negotiation table with Saddam Husayn of Iraq.

On Iraq's renewed deployment of chemical weapons against Iranian forces, Salari reiterated Iran's respect for international regulations and warned that if world organizations failed to find a way to force Iraq to halt its use of chemical weapons, Iran would have no option but to retaliate.

Salari quoted doctors treating chemically wounded Iranian soldiers as saying that the gases deployed this time by the Iraqi regime were much more poisonous than other gases it had previously used.

The Iran's Islamic combatants have seized a large number of chemical bombs and mortars belonging to the Iraqi forces and that an investigation into the issue will no doubt identify the countries which are exporting these weapons to the Iraqi regime, the Iranian ambassador said.

On the Iranian forces' advance in the Val-Fajr-8 operation, Salari said that their relentless attacks on the Iraqi forces have so far killed or wounded 15,000 Ba'thist troops and liberated nearly 850 square kms of Iraqi land.

The ambassador said that any peace with the Iraqi regime which has repeatedly violated international conventions would be a senseless move. He repeated that Iran has no covetous eye on Iraqi territory and that the Persian Gulf states need not be afraid of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2388

LD211711 Tehran IRNA in English 1703 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 21, IRNA — Communique Number 2388 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces published here Friday says that Iranian Muslim combatants shelled Iraqi positions demolishing ten Iraqi-light and heavy vehicles, an enemy tank as well as ten various weapon emplacements of theirs in northwestern battlefronts. It added that a number of Iraqi troops were killed or wounded and their artillery fire silenced, and movement of enemy vehicle columns were disrupted.

In western war fronts, the Iranian Muslim combatants forced enemy patrols to flee near Sumar, the communique says. Also Iraqi warplanes were forced to flee Mehran and Salehabad by Iranian Muslim anti-aircraft fire, it added.

The communique further says that Islamic forces in southern fronts inflicted heavy casualties and damages on the enemy checking Iraqi fortification efforts and preventing them from infiltrating Iranian positions near Hoseynieh.

The cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr in Khuzestan Province were subjected to Iraqi long-range artillery fire over the past twenty four hours, the communique added. Enemy aerial aggression was repelled from Ahvaz, it concluded.

Khatam ol-Anbiya' Number 18

LD221725 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Communique No 18 of the Khatam ol-Antiya' headquarters, the joint operational center of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, issued 22 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. By the dawn and its 10 nights. [Koranic verse]

O Muslim, martyr-nurturing nation! Following the liberation of the Iraqi city of Al-Faw and more than 850 square km of the strategic area in the southern part of that country during the "Val-Fajr-8" operations, Islam's combatants are defending the liberated areas by consolidating and strengthening their positions and fortifications. The defeated enemy, making use of the 5th Infantry Division, began four counterattacks today in the region north of Al-Faw which were severely crushed.

The Zionist enemy was forced to use the infantry in view of losing a vast section of his armored forces, tanks, and APC's throughout the "Val-Fajr-8" operations, in these counterattacks. As a result,

after suffering a heavy defeat and leaving behind more than 1,000 killed and wounded, the enemy was forced to flee. During these operations so far, 87 POW's have been moved behind the front bringing the total number of Iraqi POW's to 2,192.

Also today, another 5 enemy aircraft were shot down thanks to the tactical moves of our Air Force's heroes and the antiaircraft fire of our forces. The pilot of one of the downed aircraft was captured by Islam's combatants. The number of enemy aircraft shot down so far since the beginning of the "Val-Fajr-8" operations has reached 55.

The eagles of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Air Force, too, heavily bombed enemy positions and assembly points today in several phases and inflicted heavy casualties. Also, the fast-flying pilots of the Army aviation force in the course of repulsing the enemy's counterattacks today, inflicted appreciable losses and casualties on the forces of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime. While monitoring the movements and redeployments of the enemy, Islamc's combatants are opening fire on their positions and assembly points.

[Signed] Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, joint operational center of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Republic Guards Corps.

Communique No 2398

LD221731 Tehran IRNA in English 1654 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 22, IRNA — Three Iraqi warplanes were shot down by the anti-aircraft fire on the Iranian Muslim combatants in Val-Fajr-8 operational region Saturday from 08:10 to 12:31 hours local time (04:40 to 09:01 GMT), according to a military communique.

Communique Number 2398 of the Joint Staff Command of the Islamic Republic Armed Forces published here Saturday says that Iranian Muslim combatants killed or wounded at least 25 Iraqi soldiers demolishing more than 20 enemy bunkers as well as several vehicles in western fronts.

In northwestern war fronts, Iranian Muslim forces shelled Iraqi positions and concentration centers, destroying 14 enemy vehicles, a tank as well as ten different weaponry emplacements. A number of Iraqi soldiers were also killed or wounded, the communique says.

It furthermore says that the Iranian Muslim combatants subjected Iraqi patrols to their heavy fire and forced them to flee near Mehran region, in southern battlefronts, while the enemy's fortification efforts were checked and their tactical maneuvers were severely restricted. It also says that artillery fire as well as heavy gun fire were exchanged in the same front.

Iran's anti-aircraft fire forced Iraqi warplanes to flee from Gilan-e Gharb region, the communique said.

Iran's Muslim combatants exercised complete control over Iraq's engineering efforts including establishment of obstacles near Eynkhosh, setting of floating bridges as well as launching heavy boats for the same purpose in Majnun Islands, the communique says.

Elsewhere Iraq armoured activities were checked in western Jofeyr disrupting the enemy's efforts, the communique says.

Meanwhile, the cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr in Khuzestan Province were subjected to the enemy's long-range sporadic fire over the past 24 hours damaging some buildings.

The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces expressed its condolences to Imam Khomeyni on martyrdom of a group of Iranians including several Majlis deputies when their passenger plane was shot down by invading Iraqi jet fighters Thursday.

Iraq Using Satellite Pictures

LD222001 Tehran IRNA in English 1941 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] London, Feb. 22, IRNA — An Iraqi commander has been speaking of using satellite pictures to locate the positions of Iran's Islamic combatants controlling much of the Al-Faw peninsula.

Maj. Gen. Rashid Maher Abed al-Rashid was quoted Saturday by a correrspondent of the British Broadcasting Corporation's world radio service in the Basra area, north of Al-Faw, as referring to satellite photos.

"General Al-Rashid said... the Iranians were confined to a narrow semi-triangular area... a fact, he said, could be verified by satellite photos," the BBC reporter said in a broadcast Saturday afternoon. Iraq's latest admission to the use of superpower satellite photos, though indirectly, is a further indication of the broad logistical support it receives from the superpowers.

In particular, the Iraqi ruler, Saddam Husayn, had in one previous occasion spoken openly to Kuwaiti journalists about the flow of military information to Iraq from U.S. AWACS early warning planes based in Saudi Arabia.

The BBC correspondent said General al-Rashid claimed the Iraqis had made advances during Friday night against the Iranian positions around the port of Al-Faw, but added that these could not be confirmed by correspondents who were not allowed to visit the scenes for themselves.

The Islamic forces repulsed from Iraqi counter-attacks in the north of Al-Faw Saturday, leaving 1,000 enemy troops killed or wounded, as they remained in full control of the 850 square kms captured in operation Val Fajr-8.

Iraqi Attack Repulsed

LD231136 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] A few minutes ago, Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, the joint headquarters for operations by the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, announced: The Islamic warriors are defending the gains of the victorious "Val-Fajr-8" operations, with steadfastness.

The Ba'thist enemy that suffered irreparable losses and damage this morning staged a feeble counteroffensive along an extensive front to penetrate the positions held by Islam's forces.

In the course of the counteroffensive, the 603th Infantry Brigade, the 23d Brigade of the 5th Army Corps' motorized units, and the 15th Brigade of the same corps took part. However, the steadfastness and resistance showed by the true sons of the Islamic revolution removed any chances of mobility from the enemy forces and after several hours of engagement the enemy counteroffensive was totally repulsed.

During the course of repulsing this counteroffensive, heavy losses and damage were inflicted on the Ba'thist army of Iraq which will be detailed later.

Meanwhile, the Islamic warriors, are now maintaining complete control over an area 30 km long from (R'as al-Bishah) to the advance lines of the warfront.

Based on the same report, the defeated regime of Iraq has begun an extensive propaganda campaign over the past few days to increase the morale of its shaken army, to the effect that the Iraqi forces are 10 km from the town of Al-Faw. However, they have not announced how far their advance lines are from (R'as al-Bishah).

Communique No 2390

LD231611 Tehran IRNA in English 1526 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb 23, IRNA — Iran's Muslim combatants pounded positions, supply routes and motorized columns of Iraqi forces in Ilam and Bakhtaran Province Saturday, killing and wounding at least 15 Iraqi troops and destroying three observation posts and one heavy mortar launcher of theirs, says a military communique here Sunday.

The communique number 2390 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces says that Iraqi aerial raids and artillery fire on Abadan in Khuzestan Province Saturday caused some damage.

In Piranshah, Sardasht and Marivan, all in the northwestern fronts, Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi positions Saturday killed or wounded a number of Iraqi soldiers and demolished two enemy trucks and several gun emplacements. Iranian Muslim combatants forced invading Iraqi warplanes to flee from the northwestern fronts, according to the communique.

Iraqi warplanes violating the airspace of Salehabad and Mehran, western fronts, were repelled by Iranian anti-aircraft units, says the communique, adding that Iranian forces checked reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters in Anjireh, Halaleh, Haft-e Shah and Sumar Saturday.

In the southern fronts, the communique says, artillery duels between Islamic combatants and Iraqi troops continued Saturday raging more intensely in the Majnun Islands, Shahrani and Talaiyeh.

Iranian forces checked the operations of Iraqi armoured and amphibious units in areas overlooking Jofeyr, and elsewhere in Khorramshahr and the Majnun Islands they heavily shelled cruise boats and Iraqi engineering units, reports the joint staff.

Iran's gendarmerie forces opened fire on Iraqi positions in southern fronts and in Dehloran and Ilam border fronts Saturday inflicting heavy casualties and losses on Iraqi forces.

Iraqi Planes Bomb Hormozgan

LD231632 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Bushehr, Bushehr Prov., Feb. 23, IRNA — Invading Iraqi war planes bombarded the outskirts of Ganaveh, in Hormozgan Province, Sunday wounding two Iranian civilians. The wounded were immediately transferred to a nearby hospital. A bus and a motorcycle were also damaged in the Iraqi air raid.

The Iraqi regime by carrying out such desperate acts is trying to mislead the world public opinion from the severe defeats inflicted on its forces by Iran's Islamic combatants in the course of the ongoing Val-Fajr-8 operation, launched by Iran Feb. 9.

Iraqi Counterassault Crushed

LD231735 Tehran IRNA in English 1717 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Khatam ol-Anbiya' HQ., Feb. 23, IRNA — Iran's Islamic forces crushed an Iraqi counter-assault in Val-Fajr-8 operational region Sunday, killing or wounding at least 500 Iraqi troops and capturing 59 more enemy soldiers, according to Khatam ol-Anbiya' IRGC-Army joint headquarters here Sunday.

It said that scores of tanks, personnel carriers and trucks of Iraqi forces were either destroyed or seized by Iranian forces.

One more Iraqi warplane was shot down in Al-Faw Peninsula Sunday bringing to 56, the number of downed Iraqi planes since the beginning of Iranian offensive on February 9, the communique said.

It further said that Iranian forces are in full control of 30-km-long liberated land along the Arvand River and Khur Abdallah waterway with a total area of over 800 square kms, despite the wide spread propaganda launched by the Baghdad regime and international mass media on alleged advance by Iraqi forces in Al-Faw region.

It further said that Infantry Brigade 63 together with the 23rd and 15th brigades of the Iraq's mechanized division five participated in the smashed counterattack. [Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1630 GMT on 23 Feburary carried a similar report on the "Val-Farj-8" operations which identified this information as having been issued in Communique No 20 of the Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters]